



Appeals and State Hearings Newsletter

Website: www.ladpss.org

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Our address: 3833 S Vermont Ave - 4th floor
Los Angeles, CA 90037

MEDS RECON WORKLOAD

The March reconciliation of discrepancies between MEDS and LEADER files resulted in over 150,000 "April McMeds" NOA terminations effective 4/30/04. ASH has received 1,409 appeals on these NOAs and has been working closely with line staff to resolve the issues. Another reconciliation took place in May and 6,689 "June McMeds" NOAs were mailed out for 6/30/04 terminations of MEDS files. Filings are beginning to come in and ASH will be notifying line staff of the appeals determination and corrective action needed. The most important facet of this reconciliation is to ensure that the MEDS file discrepancy is corrected or terminated. MEDS "clean-up" efforts will continue on a quarterly basis.



Good Sleuth Work



Good research pays off !!! An IHSS hearing took place involving a companion IHSS appeals filing asking for IHSS retroactive to 1999. The granted decision ordered the County to rescind the 2003 denial and re-evaluate for IHSS eligibility. However, the Judge dismissed the claim for the retro period dating back to 1999 because the County presented evidence that the couple had previously appealed the 1999 denial of IHSS and failed to appear for the hearing. This resulted in revenue savings by safeguarding 4 years of benefits.



About the State Hearing Division (SHD)



The State Hearings Division (SHD) is a division within the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). CDSS is part of the Health and Human Services Agency of the State of California. SHD is responsible for adjudicating welfare and social services disputes concerning CalWORKs, Food Stamps, Adult Services, Refugee Programs, and Social Services on behalf of the Director of CDSS. SHD also adjudicates disputes concerning Medi-Cal programs on behalf of the Director of the California Department of Health Services (CDHS). SHD has about 150 employees, including approximately 60 Administrative Law Judges (ALJs). To adjudicate disputes, ALJs conduct quasi-judicial administrative hearings, evaluate evidence, issue subpoenas if necessary, make evidentiary findings, research the applicable law, and prepare decisions. The Chief Administrative Law Judge is John R. Castello and the Presiding Judge for the Los Angeles Regional Office is Ronald Mendoza. Judge Mendoza is responsible for LA, Orange, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties and oversees 9 ALJs assigned to his Region. Judge Mendoza grew up in Los Angeles and is a graduate of UCLA Law School. He was in private practice for 18 years and has worked for the State for the past 10 years. Judge Mendoza and ASH have forged a productive and positive working relationship.



Case Correction Memos (PA 411) sent by ASH to district offices now identify potential Food Stamp errors. If the issue involves Food Stamps, a notation on the upper right hand corner of the PA 411 alerts districts that the case in question may have a potential Food Stamp error!



In June 2004, there were 162 PA 411s with FS alert notations. Remember that a corrected case means one less error case!!!

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